

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7035

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US, OVIP, (FORD, GERALD R.)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: SEOUL 6974

1. IN OCT. 22 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR FOREIGN MINISTER KIM DONG JO EXPRESSED AGAIN ROKG WISH TO BEGIN EARLY PLANNING ON PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT. KIM INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT PARK IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT PRESIDENT FORD BE GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE, WARM WELCOME.

2. KIM ALSO DISCUSSED GENERALLY CERTAIN ASPECTS OF ROKG THINKING ON VISIT. HE MENTIONED PRESIDENT PARK'S INTEREST IN ARRANGING A CIVIC RECEPTION IN CITY HALL PLAZA ALONG LINES THAT ACCORDED PRESIDENT JOHNSON IN 1966. KIM ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ROKG IS PLANNING A LARGE RECEPTION AT CAPITAL EVENING OF NOV. 22 TO BE FOLLOWED BY STATE DINNER. KIM INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS CONSIDERING FOLLOWING PRACTICE IN JAPAN WITH REGARD EVENING DRESS FOR DINNER. IF JAPANESE HAD WHITE TIE DINNER IN PRESIDENT FORD'S HONOR, KIM FELT ROKG SHOULD ALSO.

3. IN RESPONSE, AMBASSADOR CAUTIONED THAT ROKG NOT MOVE TOO QUICKLY IN FIRING UP PLANS IN ABSENCE OF VIEWS FROM WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WE EXPECTED ADVANCE TEAM IN EARLY NOVEMBER AND THAT FOR PRESENT ROKG PLANNING SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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FLEXIBLE.

4. ON QUESTION OF CITY HALL RECEPTION, AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THERE ARE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE LOOKED INTO. KIM AGREED COMPLETELY. AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT ROKG SHOULD NOT FEEL BOUND TO FOLLOW JAPANESE PRECEDENT IN ARRANGING VISIT. HE SAID WE DO NOT KNOW PRESIDENT FORD'S WISHES BUT IT HIS IMPRESSION WHITE TIE DINNER MIGHT BE OVERLY FORMAL. KIM INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LOOK FURTHER INTO PRECEDENTS ON THIS, PARTICULARLY WHAT WAS DONE DURING STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON. (WE UNDERSTAND STATE DINNER FOR PRESIDENT JOHNSON WAS BLACK TIE.)

5. COMMENT: KIM AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO MOVE AHEAD ON SCHEDULE FOR PRESIDENT FORD. WHILE ROKG WISHES TO BE COMPLETELY FORTHCOMING IN TERMS OF PRESIDENT FORD'S DESIRES, BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE SOON BEGIN GIVING THEM SOME INFORMAL GUIDANCE AT LEAST.

6. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT KIM AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT OUTDOOR RECEPTION IN CITY HALL PLAZA. BUT AT THIS POINT THEY FEEL BOUND BY PRESIDENT PARK'S WISH THAT CITY HALL RECEPTION BE AT LEAST PROPOSED TO AMERICAN SIDE. WHITE TIE DINNER IS FONMIN KIM'S IDEA AND, IF WE DO NOT WAIT TOO LONG, WE BELIEVE HE CAN BE TALKED OUT OF IT.
SNEIDER

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